NUMB. XXVII.

The LOVER.

By MARMADUKE MYRTLE, *Gent.*

——Didiciſſe fideliter Artes
Emollit mores—— Ovid.

Tueſday, April 27. 1714.

AMong the many Letters of Correſpondents I have of late received, but very few which are not mixed with Satyr, I am a little tired with ſuch Ideas as the reading thoſe Performances raiſe in the Mind, ſo are thoſe who imagine they are alluded to by what has paſſed through my Hands, and I doubt not but my Readers in general ceaſe alſo to be delighted with that kind of Reflections. When therefore it is irkſom to us all, it is time to paſs to more pleaſing Arguments. But as I told the Town at my firſt ſetting out, that Mr. *Severn* was my Favourite of all the Characters which I have repreſented to compoſe our little Club mentioned in my firſt Paper, I ſhall declare my ſelf further on this Subject, by Printing my Letter I have writ to Mr. *Severn*, which he will receive to Morrow Morning.

To Mr. SEVERN.

SIR,

'THIS comes with a Sett of *Latin* Authors juſt 'now Publiſhed by *Tonſon*. You ſee they are 'in Twelves, and fit to be carried on occaſion in 'the Pocket. He ſent me two Setts, one for my ſelf, 'the other for the Gentleman whom I meant by Mr. '*Severn*. You will pleaſe therefore to accept the Preſent he makes you: You need not be enjoined to be 'Partial to them as they are a Gift; for as you'll obſerve, Mr. *Maittaire* has had the Care of the Edition; you need not be further encouraged to recommend them to your Friends and Acquaintance. 'The Learned World is very much obliged to that 'Gentleman for his uſeful Labours, and his elegant 'Addreſſes (to thoſe to whom he Dedicates the Book) 'as well as to the Reader in general, ſhows him a 'perfect Maſter in what he undertakes, for he introduces his Authors in a Stile as pure as their 'own. You know he had the good Fortune to 'have lived in the Favour, as it were under the 'Patronage of the Famous Dr. *Busby*, to whoſe 'great Talents and Knowledge in the Genius of Men 'we owe very great Ornaments of this Age, and the 'ſupply of Men of Letters and Capacity for many 'Generations, or rather Claſſes of remarkable Men 'during his long and eminent Life. I muſt con-

(Price Two Pence.)

'feſs, (and I have often reflected upon it) that I 'am of Opinion *Busby*'s Genius for Education 'had as great an Effect upon the Age he lived in, 'as that of any ancient Philoſopher, without excepting one, had upon his Contemporaries. Tho' 'I do not perceive that admirable Man is remembred by them, at leaſt not recorded by them, with 'half the Veneration he deſerves. I have known 'great Numbers of his Scholars, and am confident, 'I could diſcover a Stranger who had been ſuch, 'with a very little Converſation: Thoſe of great 'Parts, who have paſſed through his Inſtruction, 'have ſuch a peculiar Readineſs of Fancy and delicacy of Taſte, as is ſeldom found in Men educated 'elſewhere, tho' of equal Talents; and thoſe who were 'of ſlower Capacities, have an Arrogance (for Learning without Genius always produces that) that ſet 'them much above greater Merit that grew under 'any other Gardiner. He had a power of raiſing what 'the Lad had in him to the utmoſt height in what 'Nature deſigned him; and it was not his Fault, 'but the effect of Nature, that there were no indifferent People come out of his Hands; but his 'Scholars were the fineſt Gentlemen, or the greateſt Pedants in the Age. The Soil which he manured always grew fertile, but it is not in the 'Planter to make Flowers of Weeds; but whatever 'it was under *Busby*'s Eye, it was ſure to get forward towards the Uſe for which Nature deſigned 'it.

'But I forgot what I ſate down to write upon, 'which was to hand to you theſe pretty Volumes 'of *Terence*, *Saluſt*, *Phædrus*, *Lucretius*, *Velleius* '*Paterculus* and *Juſtin*; but it will be ſaid how 'comes this matter to have at all a place in the '*Lover*. Why very properly, for to you whoſe 'chief Art in recommending your ſelf, is to Act 'and Speak like a Man of Virtue and Senſe, that 'which contributes to make you wiſer and better, 'is ſerviceable to you as you are a Gentleman and 'a Lover. Take my word for it, the oftener you 'take theſe Books in your Hand, you will find your 'Mind the more prepared for doing the moſt ordinary things with a good Grace and Spirit. That 'is the agreeable Thoughts of theſe Writers frequently employing your Imagination, will natu-

'rally

rally and insensibly affect your Words and Actions. It will, in a greater degree, do what good Company does to all who frequent it, make you in your Air and Mien like those with whom you Converse.

Mr. *Maittaire* has promised to go thro' the best remaining Authors with the same Diligence: The large Indexes which lead with so much ease to any beautiful Passage one has a mind for, are of great Use and Pleasure. They are made with so much Judgment and Care, that they serve the Purpose of an Abreviation of the Book, and carry a secret Instruction, in that they lay the Sense of the Author still closer in Words of his own, or as good as his own. I am mighty well content with the Province of being esteemed but a Publisher, if I can be so happy as to quicken the Passage of useful Arts in the World; and I wish this Paper's coming, where otherwise Works of this kind would not be spoken of, may be of any Use to a Man who deserves so well of all Lovers of Learning as Mr. *Maitaire*. Perhaps a fond Mother may, by my Means, lighten her Son's Satchel, and get him these little Volumes instead of the heavy Load the Boy was before encumbered with, and her own Eyes may be judge, that this is a Print which cannot hurt the Childs.

But I must leave these Ancients, and give a cast of my Office to a Living Writer, a Sister of the Quill.

The Sentiments and Inclinations of my Mind are so naturally turned to Love, that it is with a great deal of Pleasure I frequent the Play-house, where I have often an Opportunity of seeing this Passion represented in all its different Shapes. I have for some Years been so constant a Customer to the Theatre, that I have got most of our celebrated Plays by heart; for which reason it is with more than ordinary pleasure that I hear the Actors give out a new one. It is no small Satisfaction to me, that I know we are to be entertained to Night with a Comedy from the same Hand that writ *the Gamester* and *the Busie Body*. The deserved Success these Plays met with, is a certain Demonstration that Wit alone is more than sufficient to supply all the Rules of Art. The Incidents in both those Pieces are so dexterously managed, and the Plots so ingeniously perplexed, as shew them at once to be the Invention of a Wit and a Woman. The Curious will observe the same happy Conduct in the Entertainment of this Night; and as we have but one *British* Lady who employs her Genius for the Drama, it would be a shameful Reflection on the Polite of both Sexes, should she want any Encouragement the Town can give her. I desire your Interest in her behalf, and am,

SIR,

Your most Obedient Servant,

Marmaduke Myrtle.

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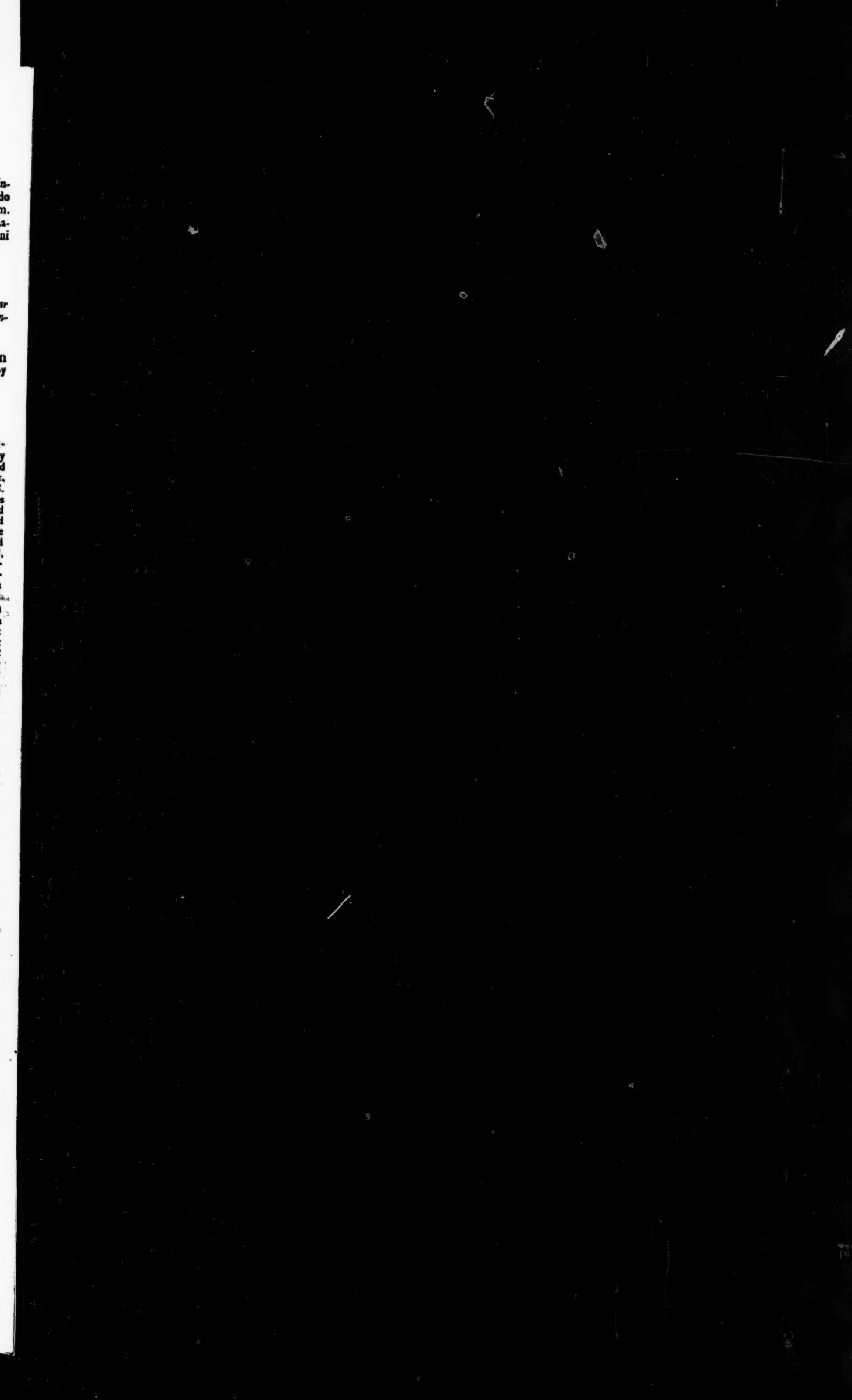
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